

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O P 201105Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7979

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T AMMAN 2705

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS JO US

SUBJECT: BROWNMEN VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 122780, (B) AMMAN 2677, (C) SECTO 13004

1. SAW RIFAI AT 1300 LOCAL MAY 20, GAVE HIM YOUR LETTER TO KING
(REF B)

2. BEFORE I COULD SAY ANYTHING FURTHER HE SAID "YES I HAVE SEEN
IT AND IT IS THE BEST MESSAGE WE HAVE HAD FROM THE SECRETARY
IN YEARS".

3. I THEN TOLD HIM THAT IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR CONCERN OVER NEGATIVE
REACTION IN US WHICH WE WERE SURE JORDAN ALSO SHARED IN LIGHT OF
ON GOING CONSIDERATION BY CONGRESS OF THE NEW AID BILL, ETC.
WE HAD DECIDED TO CANCEL BROWNMEN VISIT. HE WAS A LITTLE UNSURE
OF WHAT VISIT I WAS ACTUALLY TALKING ABOUT BUT WHEN I HAD EXPLAINED
HE SAID THAT IT SOUNDED LIKE JUST THE RIGHT THING TO DO. HE AGREED
FULLY WITH US ABOUT IT.

4. I THEN MADE POINT (REF C) THAT IF VISIT NECESSARY PERHAPS WE
COULD DISCUSS AT SOME LATER TIME WHATEVER RESCHEDULING TIME WHEN
IT WOULD NOT BE SO CLEARLY JUXTAPOSED WITH SOVIET VISIT HERE WHICH
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RECEIVING SO MUCH PUBLICITY. HE SAID FINE.

5. LATER CONVERSATION I ASKED HIM HOW TALKS WERE COMING WITH SOVIETS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT COMPLETELY UP TO DATE BUT THAT HE THOUGH TALK NOW WAS JUST ABOUT GENERAL PRINCIPLES. WHEN I REPLIED DID THAT MAN THINGS LIKE WHETHER SOVIET ADVISORS WOULD BE STATIONED HERE, HE SAID NO NOT AT THAT LEVEL OF DETAIL, BUT "WE CERTAINLY DO NOT WANT SOVIET ADVISORS HERE ALTHOUGH WE MAY HAVE TO TAKE SOME TO GET SYSTEMS OPERATING".

6. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY WITH HIS COMMENT ABOUT YOUR MESSAGE AND HIS REACTION TO CANCELLATION BROWMAN VISIT, RIFAI IS NOT PERMITTING JORDANIAN SIDE TO APPEAR TO PERCEIVE ANY CHANGE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP FOLLOWING THEIR APPROACH TO SOVIETS. HE AND KING HAVE CLEARLY DECIDED TO PLAY IT THIS WAY. HOWEVER VISIT CANCELLATION LIKELY TO HAVE SOME IMPACT IN THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE WHERE IT WAS EWLL KNOWN THAT BROWINMAN WAS COMING AND WHERE THERE WAS POSSIBILIY SOME HOPE THAT HE WOULD BRING WITH HIM A WESTERN SOLUTION TO THE AIR DEFENSE PROBLEM. PICKERING

SECRET

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